

BOROUGH OF FLEETWOOD.



A N N U A L R E P O R T,

1939.

By

JOHN COLGAN, M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O.

Medical Officer of Health.

MEMBERS OF THE SANITARY COMMITTEE.

His Worship the Mayor:

Alderman P. McNicholas, M.B.E., J.P.

Chairman:

Councillor W. Minns.

Alderman:

H. Blackburn. C. Saer, T.D., C.C.
T. Clegg. J.P. Thomason.
W.E. Simpson. W.H. Thompson.

Councillors:

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|-------------------|------------------------|
| Mrs. J. Atherton. | T.F. Nisbett. |
| W.F. Betney. | T. Roberts. |
| C.H. Dent. | J. Shaw. |
| W. Drummond. | A.L. Scholfield, B.Sc. |
| W.A. Eccles. | J. Sutcliffe. |
| H. Jones. | W. Ward. |
| R. Knowles. | A. Wilkinson. |
| E.A. Lawrence. | F. Wilkinson. |
| C.F. Lofthouse. | |

Town Clerk: J. Bell.

Medical Officer of Health and Port Medical Officer: J. Colgan, M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O.

Chief Sanitary Inspector (Borough and Port) and Cleansing Superintendent:

G. Pilkington, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., M.I.P.C.

Additional Inspectors:

A.H. Johnstone, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
E. Whitehead, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
F. Hesketh, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk:

F. Swarbrick.

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Public Health Office,
Copse Road,
Fleetwood.

August, 1940.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Fleetwood.

Gentlemen and Madam,

I have the pleasure to present my Seventeenth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the District during the year ending 31st December, 1939, combined with the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. In accordance with Circular 2067 dated 19th July, 1940 of the Ministry of Health, this will take the form of an interim report, to be followed by a complete report, after the termination of the war, dealing with the period from the beginning of 1939.

Infantile Mortality.

Although official figures have not yet been supplied by the Registrar General, it is believed that a further improvement occurred in the figures for infant deaths.

Infectious Disease.

There was no marked prevalence of infectious disease during the year. Diphtheria occurred in sporadic cases only, with the exception of two small outbreaks in the Avon Green area during June and October, in which 5 and 6 cases were notified respectively.

Measles & Whooping Cough

Regulations, 1939 (Provisional).

Under these Regulations, Measles and Whooping Cough became compulsorily notifiable from the 23rd October, 1939. No considerable incidence was reported to the end of 1939.

Health Week.

Arrangements made for a Health Week to take place on ambitious lines in October, 1939, were cancelled at the onset of the national emergency.

Milk Supply.

Inspections and sampling were maintained throughout the year, and action taken where found to be necessary.

Water Sampling.

Samples of swimming bath water and tap water were taken regularly during the year, and copies of monthly reports were received on Fylde water examined by the Water Board. In all cases, both bacteriological and chemical reports were satisfactory.

Sanitary Conditions.

Inspections of various premises during the year totalled 7,032, and 724 nuisances and defects were remedied.

Housing.

54 houses were erected during the year. 45 houses were inspected under Housing Acts, and 53 were put in good repair. No action was necessary with regard to Overcrowding, apart from isolated cases which were dealt with as they arose.

Eradication of Vermin.

Since June, 1939, the furniture of all new tenants to Corporation houses has been disinfested with Hydrogen Cyanide gas in a special gas-proof van, the work being carried out by Sanitary Staff specially trained in this work. Verminous houses are sprayed with a proprietary insecticide (Lethane), which has proved satisfactory in light infestations, but in severe cases Hydrogen Cyanide is used, a firm of contractors being employed.

Salvage of Waste Materials.

The baling of waste paper (first commenced by the Cleansing Department in 1937) and the salvaging of other materials was intensified during the latter part of the year.

Food Inspection.

Inspection of all meat at the Public Abattoir and food at shops and other premises was carried out, the previous difficulty being again encountered, i.e., a large quantity of meat at shops is found to be diseased, having been brought into the district from surrounding areas without inspection having taken place.

Under the Lancashire County Council (General Powers) Act, 1938, it was necessary for all Hawkers of food and their premises, and other premises where food is prepared, to be registered from the 1st October, 1939. 29 licences to hawkers and 73 licences for premises were granted during the year.

I am, Gentlemen and Madam,
Your obedient Servant,

J. COLGAN.

Medical Officer of Health.

